

Summer 2010

# Social Studies

# Summer Learning

# Packet

## Grades 3-5

## Introduction

The student activities in this packet are designed to reinforce major social studies concepts and skills, while also being fun and interesting. Please note that these elementary-level activities will require parent/family supervision or assistance.

This packet has been adapted from Miami-Dade County Public Schools,  
<http://www.dadeschools.net/winterBreak/default.asp>

## Activities

- Have your child plan a trip from your home to another destination. She can use a road map to plan her route and include the distance (in miles) to the destination, the best driving or walking route, major lakes or rivers she would pass along the way, and how long it would take to get there. Ask your child to draw a **map** including all of this information.
- **Map your neighborhood!** Draw a map of your neighborhood (or just the block where you live) on a piece of cardboard. Then cut up milk cartons, boxes, or any other three-dimensional item and place them on the map to represent buildings. Work with your child to label as much as possible: business names, people's homes, compass directions (e.g., north), etc. Add interesting details to the map such as bottle tops to represent manhole covers and straws for street lights. Build your child's map skills by maintaining the scale relationships. In other words, a "house" on the map should be represented by something much larger than the "car" you place on the streets.
- Many men and women have contributed to the District of Columbia's growth and development. Have your child use the library or internet to research the lives of some of these people and write a **three-paragraph essay** on the impact they had on Washington, D.C. Examples of relevant historical and present-day figures include Francis Cardozo, Frederick Douglass, Alexander Shepherd, Jane Delgado, Mordecai Wyatt Johnson, Marion Berry, and Eleanor Homes Norton.
- Ask your child to choose an endangered species (they can find one on <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/species/index.html>) and conduct research to learn more about the reasons why they are endangered. Have them write a **letter** to a politician such as Mayor Fenty or Representative Holmes Norton asking them to allocate funds for the implementation of protection programs.

- Depending on your child's interests and level of understanding, talk about what types of things you, from an adult's perspective, want President Obama to address as President of the United States. Then ask your child to make a **list** of things that she wants President Obama to accomplish.
- Knowing what happens around the world is important for children so that they can understand that they are part of a global community. Have your children watch the world news for one week and identify on a world map the location of the places discussed in the news. Ask them to summarize in their own words what the news stories were about. Have them track the different regions of the world identified in the news stories each night. At the end of the week, have your child add the percentage of news coverage for each region. Your child should use these numbers to draw a **pie graph**. The pie graph will show which region of the world received the most news coverage (see example below).

